

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth and Wes Moore (James McIlroy is out of town on business). Others present were: Ray Buxton, Doreen Howard, Dennis Abbott, Peter Chapel of the Local Government Center, Police Chief Reed, and Lt. Gould.

Ray Buxton advised that well #7 off of Bassett Lane is ready for the 72 hour pump test. The State had some questions on the preliminary plan for the well and Hoyle and Tanner responded to the State's satisfaction. The abutters to well #7 will be sent certified letters asking if they would like to have their private wells monitored during the 72 hour pump test. Usually, 25% of the abutters ask for monitoring. There are only 4 abutters within 400 feet radius of the new well.

The Water and Sewer Department will be asking the Selectmen for permission to put a pump house on town owned property off of Route 87. The pump house will be 20 by 20 or 30 x 30 with a generator located inside the building (it will not be heard outside of the building). Wes will discuss this with Fran Lane, Town Counsel as this will probably require a Warrant Article in 2008. Ray said it will be about a year before the new well will be put into use. They are asking to withdraw 300 gallons per minute even though the well tested at 500 gallons per minute.

Wes asked about the arsenic in well #6. Ray said this is the only well with reports of arsenic. This is a natural occurrence in bedrock. The acceptable level of arsenic was reduced from 50ppb to 10ppb and that is why Newfields is being cited for arsenic. Part of the problem with the higher level of arsenic is the low level of water in the well. The well can't be shut down for repairs as it would leave the Town without water. Once the new well is on line, the arsenic level in well #6 may drop or repairs could be made to seal off the veins generating the arsenic.

Doreen Howard and Dennis Abbott, members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, attended the meeting to see if the Town of Newfields has any concerns they could help with.

Doreen would like to have the New Road Bridge replaced which would increase public safety protection for both Newfields and Newmarket. Years ago, Newmarket had offered to take on the project at no cost to the Town of Newfields but the Selectmen at that time did not accept the offer. Doreen feels that a new bridge at New Road would be an asset to both towns. Wes would like Doreen to see if she can get that discussion re-opened.

The crisis in New Hampshire education was discussed. No resolution is available at this time. The fact that the State of New Hampshire is fiscally responsible, has a low rate of crime, an excellent education system (except for the cost to taxpayers), and a high quality of life was reviewed. There was also discussion about the lack of affordable housing in Newfields in particular as well as the rest of the State.

Peter Chapel of the Local Government Center met with the Selectmen regarding Disability Insurance for the Police Department. He explained that the Local Government Center does not insure individuals and that is why the coverage for the police would have to be invoiced to the town. The Selectmen determine who is eligible for coverage and the Town's guidelines have to meet the LGC's standards. Typically, this type of coverage is offered only to full-time employees. However, a minimum of 75% of employees offered the coverage have to take it in order for the LGC to provide coverage.

Short-term disability does not go into effect if an employee is being paid through Workers' Compensation. Long-term disability is paid less any other amounts paid such as Social Security Disability.

The Police Department wants the coverage to begin as soon as possible. However, applications need to be completed and submitted to the company, the Town needs an administrator for the program, premiums need to be deducted from payroll (which would be billed on the same invoices as the dental coverage). If coverage is offered to all full-time employees, an open enrollment period would be required. Prices for this coverage would need to be obtained for other town employees.

We will speak with the Town's labor law attorney about including various town employees (other than the Police Department) and any other implications that the Town should be aware of.

The MS-5 was signed by the Selectmen so that it may be forwarded to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue.

The appointment of the Newfields Health Officer was tabled until the full board is in session.

The Application for Financial Assistance – Mosquito Control was signed by the Selectmen. The Town hopes to receive \$6,625. from the State for monies expended by the Town for mosquito control.

Gene Perrault advised the Town Office that he will be able to attend Public Hearing on November 6th on Mosquito Control for 2008. He stated that Dr. Jason Stull from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services will also attend the meeting. Nancy advised that she has not been able to contact Lara Bricker at the Exeter Newsletter and Wes volunteered to contact her. Nancy has also asked Sarah MacGregor of Dragon

Mosquito Control, Inc. to provide estimates for various mosquito control programs for 2008. Sarah will also attend the public hearing.

The Selectmen appointed Tom Morgan as a Trustee of the Trust Funds to fill the vacancy left when Pam Abbott resigned. Tom's term will end in March 2008. His appointment was signed by the Selectmen and Tom will be asked to come to the Town Office to sign the appointment and take the Oath of Office.

The landscaper believes that the ivy that was growing on the Town Hall is gone for good. He has also treated the brick walkway to kill the grass growing between the bricks.

Correspondence from the Department of Environmental Services will be passed on to the Newfields Village Water & Sewer District and it relates to Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Discussion on the Piscassic Greenway Management Plan was tabled until the full board meets.

The Amendment Schedule for the 2007-2008 Zoning Ordinances was reviewed.

The Conservation Commission asked if the Town has a bulk mailing permit. We do not and do not see the need to purchase a permit at this time.

The new curtain for the stage at the Town Hall arrived and has been installed.

The Newfields Snowraiders are having an electric pole installed at the Littlefield Crossing on Route 87 in order to keep the snow groomer warm. They have asked to have the Building Permit fee waived (\$25.00) as they are a non-profit organization, they keep the trails groomed, and have made various donations to the Town. The Building Inspector agreed to waive his fee. The Selectmen also agreed to waive the Building Permit fee.

Primex, the insurer for the Town advised that the Property and Liability Insurance coverage premium will increase by \$490.00 in 2008.

The Selectmen received a letter from the Library Trustees inviting them to attend a meeting on October 29th to discuss the widening of the library driveway, rebuilding the handicap ramp, and adding parking spaces on the library property. Wes will try to attend this meeting.

Wes volunteered to speak with the Town Counsel about the Town's authoritative duties relative to the Newfields Public Library.

Wes advised that the Road Agent, Brian Knipstein has received all of the information needed in order to complete the new handicap ramp at the Town Hall.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 9th, 2007 meeting as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

The Administrative Assistant's yearly review was tabled until the full board is able to meet.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant